NOTE X.

ON THE SO-CALLED „SANDWICH RAIL" IN THE LEYDEN MUSEUM

BY

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Synonymy: *Crex sandwichensis* Schleg. (nec *Rallus sandwichensis* Gml.), Mus. P.-B. Ralli, 1865, p. 25.

Rallus sandwichensis Hartl. (nec Gml.), Abhandl. naturw. Vereins in Bremen, XII (1892), p. 397 (syn. part.). — Sharpe, Ibis, 1893, p. 443.

Pennula sandwichensis Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. XXIII (1894), p. 336 (syn. part.).

Pennula Wilsoni Finsch.

Schlegel's type in the Leyden Museum:

Upper parts dark ruddy brown with blackish centres to the feathers of the back and wings, producing on these parts well marked blackish longitudinal stripes; head and neck somewhat lighter and uniform ruddy brown, like the sides of head and neck; underparts uniform rusty brown, shading into vinous red, a little darker on the flanks; middle of chin somewhat lighter; anal region and lower tail-coverts dark vinous-red, forming a well marked darker patch; primaries blackish, very narrowly margined with brown on the outer web; broad and lax upper tail-coverts with very narrow light rusty-brown apical margins, showing as lighter undulations. — Bill and feet light horny-brown (as far as can be judged greenish in life.) — *Sex and Habitat* unknown.

Measurements taken from the above type:

	Total length.	wing.	culmen.	tarsus.	tibia.	middletoe with claw.	
	150 mm.	73 mm.	19 mm.	30 mm.	7 mm.	35 mm.	Finsch.
(French)		3,2 inch.	10 lin.	12 lin.	4 lin.	13 lin.	Schlegel.[1]
=	in mill.	85 mm.	23 mm.	27 mm.	11 mm.	30 mm.	
	150 mm.	73 mm.	20 mm.	29 mm.		34 mm.	Hartlaub.
(Engl.)	5,3 inch.	2,8 inch.	08 lin.	1,3 inch.		1,35 inch.	Sharpe.
=	135 mm.	68 mm.	19 mm.	34 mm.		37 mm.	

The wing is round; the primaries nearly hidden under the long and soft coverts; the first primary is 40 mm. long and 15 mm. shorter than the 3rd and 4th, which are the longest, though only a little longer than the 2nd and 5th; the exact number of primaries is difficult to ascertain without injuring the specimen. For the same reason I am able to find only two tailfeathers (dark coloured, soft, narrow and 20 mm. long), as they are hidden under the extremely thick, long and soft upper tail-coverts and are difficult to distinguish from the latter. So this species may be called „*ecaudatus*" as truly as *Pennula ecaudata* (King), and, as seen by the structure of the wings, is no doubt a flightless form. The feet are feeble; the nails short and small.

The type specimen in the Leyden Museum is stuffed and not too well; the stuffing, however, is apparently not of very old date, as may be judged from the artificial eyes (with red irides), which seem to be of enemelled glass, or — at any rate — of a kind, which was unknown in the beginning of this century. The wire used for stuffing is of brass, as commonly used by the taxidermists of the Leyden Museum.

On the underside of the stand of the specimen is written, undoubtedly by the hand of Temminck, »*Rallus* — Latham", and perhaps also by Temminck »*Rall. obscura*"; to this is added »*Crex sandwichensis,* Cat. N°. 1", no doubt written by Schlegel, as possibly also are the words »Sandwich. Cook". In the Catalogue of the Ralli Schlegel says unhesitatingly

1) The measurements of the wings and culmen given here are not exact.

»observé dans les îles Sandwich; voyage de Cook", but this statement does not seem to rest on any reliable foundation, for there does not exist any notice *when and from whom Temminck acquired the specimen!* This fact must be mentioned, as Dr. Hartlaub assures us that Temminck bought this Rail at the auction of Bullock's collection (3 June 1819) for £ 1.10, which may have been the case; but it cannot be proved that it was the specimen in question.

That it was not brought home by Cook from the Sandwich Islands is without the slightest doubt, for, according to the researches of Prof. Newton, Cook's specimens were not skins but dried examples and have long since perished. Besides this, Latham described his »Sandwich Rail" from the collection of Sir Joseph Banks; so his type cannot be the same as the specimen in the Leyden Museum.

Latham's »Dusky Rail" (*Rallus obscurus* Gml.), said to come also from the Sandwich Islands, is, according to his description, a quite different and much larger bird (»legs two inches" = 50 mm.; »legs red brown"; »bill scarcely one inch" — our specimen has the bill only $7^1/_2$ lines long!), and is most likely not a „*Pennula*" at all. Evidently Latham would have mentioned the rudimentary tail [1]), as he did not overlook this prominent character in the description of his »Sandwich Rail". The type of Latham's »Dusky Rail" was in the Leverian Museum, but unfortunately appears to have been also lost.

Schlegel's »*Crex sandwichensis*" is only known from the specimen in the Leyden Museum and is no doubt one of the rarest of birds, being most certainly not the same as »*Rallus sandwichensis*" or »*Rallus obscurus*" of Gmelin; it must therefore be renamed. I have the pleasure to name it after Mr. Scott B. Wilson [2]), to whom science is so highly

1) The identity with *Pennula ecaudata* (King) seems therefore rather doubtful, as already mentioned by Dr. Hartlaub.

2) This gentleman, in company of the artist, came over from England only for describing and figuring the bird in question.

indebted, and whom we have to thank for figuring this rare type through the skill of Mr. Frowhawk.

Although not referable at present to the Avifauna of the Hawaiian Islands, and probably one of the species »nearly or quite extinct", perhaps we still may hope for the rediscovery of *Pennula Wilsoni* in one of the neighbouring small islands as yet unsatisfactorily explored.

Leyden Museum, February 1898.